

‘Make and Take’ Rain Barrel Workshop

June 18, 2009

**Presented by the City of Winchester, Virginia
And Co-sponsored by O’Sullivan Films**

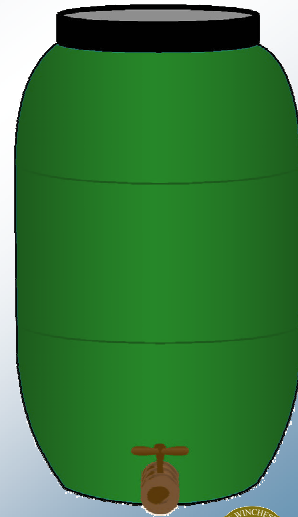
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Presentation Overview

- What is a rain barrel?
- Why should you use a rain barrel?
- How to make your own rain barrel
- After you take the rain barrel home
- More tips and information

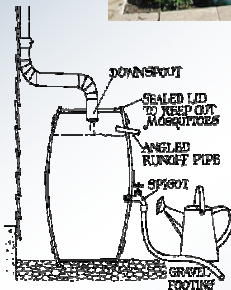


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What is a Rain Barrel?



- A barrel that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff
- A 55 gallon drum, with a hose bibb at the bottom, and a screen grate over the top to keep debris and insects out
- A simple and inexpensive way to conserve water and reduce runoff

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Why should you use a Rain Barrel?

Conserve Water

Drought or no drought, we should all conserve water. Our groundwater and freshwater supplies are limited. So, make the most of the rain and capture some of it to reuse in your garden!



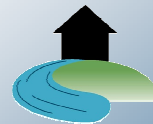
Save Money



Why pay to water your garden with tap water when you can collect hundreds of gallons at no cost?

Reduce Run-off

Stormwater runoff is the number one cause of pollution in our streams today as it carries fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals into streams. Rain barrels collect rain water from roof-tops thereby, diverting water from storm drains and decreasing the impact of runoff to streams.



Plants will love it

Rainwater has no added chemicals, is usually soft and free of dissolved minerals. This untreated water is great for your indoor plants, your garden and lawn, washing your car, and your birdbaths.

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Did you know?

If your roof's area is 1,200 square feet (30 X 40 feet),
then 1 inch of rain =
more than 700 gallons of rooftop run off!!!



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How to Make Your Own Rain Barrel?

Supplies

For a single Rain Barrel you need:

- Rain barrel
- ¾" hose bibb (measures 1" on outside)
- 2 washers and 1 lock nut for the hose bibb
- Silicone sealant
- Cover to keep debris, insects, pets, wildlife and children out of barrel.
 - Option 1 - Screening with metal hardware cloth
 - Option 2 - Cut-out hard cover (barrel top)
- Bricks or blocks (inside of the barrel to provide stability; under to improve water pressure)



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How to Make Your Own Rain Barrel? (Cont)

For a Rain Barrel System (multiple linked barrels to store more water)

- More barrels
- Hose adapter(s) for your overflow
- Washer and lock nut needed for the adapter
- Hosing (short piece) to connect one barrel to another or to direct your overflow to a nearby garden
- Hose clamps as needed

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How to Make Your Own Rain Barrel? (Cont)

Tools



- Power drill with 1" hole bit
- Wrench and pliers to tighten lock nut
- Utility knife or small saber saw to cut lid
- Scissors and shears to cut screening and hardware cloth
- Hacksaw to shorten downspout
- Screwdriver for hose clamp

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How to Make Your Own Rain Barrel? (Cont)

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Drill 1" hole near bottom of barrel
2. Apply silicone around outside of hole
3. Screw hose bibb in (place one washer on hose bibb before inserting in hole)

Tip: Keep the faucet straight as you screw it in

4. Apply silicone to the washer and use pliers to fasten the lock nut

Tip: You will need to reach into the barrel to attach the washer, lock nut and apply silicone.

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How to Make Your Own Rain Barrel? (Cont)

Step-by-Step Instructions

Your hose bibb is in!!!



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How to Make Your Own Rain Barrel? (Cont)

Step-by-Step Instructions

5. Make the desired cover for your Rain Barrel:

Option 1: Cut screen and metal hardware cloth to fit on top of the barrel; and/or

Option 2: Cut a hole on the top of the barrel to collect roof-top run-off directly off the down spout.



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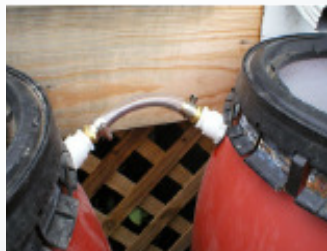
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After you take the Rain Barrel home

A good rain may overflow your rain barrel. To ensure that the overflow goes where you want it, do one of the following:

- Drill a hole high up the barrel away from the house or area you do not want to flood, OR
- Create a rain barrel system by hooking other barrels to the one under the down spout.



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After you take the Rain Barrel home (Cont)

Installing the Rain Barrel

- Prepare the area under your downspout for the barrel. Remove the splash block and level the ground under the downspout by adding sand or gravel.
- Rain barrels need to be higher than ground level. A higher barrel = higher water pressure. Use bricks, cinder blocks, or pressure treated wood to create a platform.



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After you take the Rain Barrel home (Cont)

Measure twice, cut once!
Use a hacksaw to cut off part of downspout. Leave space to reattach the downspout end-piece.



Put the barrel in place.



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More tips and information

- **Do not use rain barrel water for cooking or drinking.**
- If not using the barrel top, keep the window screening on your barrel to prevent mosquitoes.
- Use a mosquito “dunk” in the barrel (available at pet stores or online).
- Do not collect rain water if you use a moss-killer on your roof.
- Disconnect the barrel in winter.
- Use the water before the next rain or within a week, or connect the hose bibb to a soaker hose in your garden.



Acknowledgements

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- O'Sullivan Films

